FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 FEBRUARY 1987

Lebanon

The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine threatened to kill the four Beirut University College lecturers unless Israel releases 400 Palestinian detainees within a week, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. The threat was contained in a 31 January statement which was accompanied by photographs of two of the U.S. hostages. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir rejected the demand that Israel release 400 prisoners, Jerusalem radio reported, and IDF radio broadcast Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remark that Israel cannot become an "international bank" of prisoners that terrorists can turn to in order to exchange their hostages.

Meanwhile, a Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) official announced that Syria, Iran, and the PSP are involved in negotiations to determine the fate of Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, according to Radio Free Lebanon. A number of speculative reports about Waite's whereabouts included a press statement by an "informed source" that Waite is somewhere in Beirut holding "quiet negotiations" with kidnappers on the release of Americans Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland, as reported by KUNA. In a related development, the Islamic Jihad threatened that it will kill all its hostages if the United States attacks Lebanon. The threat was delivered to REUTER and accompanied by a photograph of Terry Anderson, Radio Free Lebanon noted.

In a separate development, Beirut radio reported that Middle East Airlines (MEA) transferred all its operational airliners to Cyprus in the wake of a Lebanese Forces threat to shell Beirut Airport if no decision is made on the Christian demand to inaugurate an alternative national airport at Halat. On the Christian side, Voice of Lebanon cited an MEA statement that the decision to suspend flights was due to notification of suspension of insurance cover. The Amal Movement urged foreign diplomats not to allow their countries to use the "illegal" airport at Halat, stating that support for this airport will destroy the last hope for Lebanese unification, according to Beirut radio.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio announced over 30 raids on Iranian cities 30 January-1 February. The targets included Qom, Esfahan, Tabriz, and many other cities, including some which have not often been attacked before. IRNA acknowledged most of the raids, reporting "scores" of civilian casualties including 68 schoolgirls killed and 150 wounded in Mianeh, a town in East Azarbayjan. The agency announced that Iran hit back with a missile attack on Baghdad 31 January, noting that this was the seventh such attack on the Iraqi capital since the start of Iran's Karbala' 5 offensive. An Iraqi communique said the missile hit a crowded residential area, inflicting "a number" of civilian casualties.

Both sides claimed further successes at the battlefront near Basra, with Iraq announcing a successful counteroffensive over the weekend. An Iraqi communique asserted that Iraqi forces were continuing to advance 1 February after purging Iranian positions west and south of Fish Lake. Tehran radio broadcast a communique the same day which spoke of a "futile" Iraqi attack that was "totally routed." Iranian troops captured new Iraqi positions, killing or wounding over 1,200 Iraqis, the communique said. An earlier communique carried by the radio claimed that Iran inflicted over 3,300 casualties and downed 4 Iraqi aircraft 30-31 January. Iraqi communiques acknowledged the loss of two aircraft over Iran 30-31 January, and a military spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses radio stated that an Iranian F-5 was downed by Iraqi air defenses 2 February.

In the Gulf, a Cypriot tanker was hit by an Iraqi missile 30 January, according to a Lloyds announcement cited by INA. Iraqi aircraft raided other maritime targets 31 January and 1 February, according to Iraqi communiques.

Tehran radio broadcast an exchange of messages between President 'Ali Khamene'i and Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni in which the latter approved Khamene'i's proposal to appoint Colonel Mansur Sattari as the new commander of the Iranian Air Force. The messages, datelined 30 January, expressed "appreciation" for services rendered by the outgoing commander, Colonel Hushang Seddeq.

Iran

A "spy affiliated to the occupying regime of Qods" who entered Iran on a forged passport and posed as a war correspondent has been arrested and is being questioned by Iranian authorities, Tehran radio reported 1 February. The report gave no details on the nationality of the accused.

Israel

Defense Minister Rabin rejected as "totally unfounded" a U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee report alleging that he proposed that money from Iranian arms deals be transferred to the Contras, IDF radio reported. Rabin added that "to the best" of his knowledge, no Israeli weapons reached the Contras. Issues surrounding the arms deals with Iran were discussed at a secret meeting 31 January between Prime Minister Shamir and businessman Ya'aqov Nimrodi, the radio reported. At the meeting Nimrodi reportedly criticized the actions of the prime minister's military adviser 'Amiram Nir in regard to the arms deals, the radio reported.

Libya-Chad

GUNT forces in Chad destroyed the Chadian Government forces' command headquarters in Fada and killed the regional commander during the recent attack, according to a 30 January

JANA report citing clandestine Radio Bardai. The claim was denied by the Chadian Government, which dismissed the "Libyan propaganda" and asserted that Chadian Government forces "are still holding on to Fada," AFP reported. In northwestern Chad, Libyan planes and helicopters bombed Zouar 30-31 January, AFP reported.

Afghanistan

A car bomb exploded near the Indian Embassy in Kabul 1 February, killing four persons, Kabul radio reported. The blast wounded at least 15 Indian Embassy officials, according to Delhi radio.

On the same day, DRA leader Najibullah visited the embassy and condemned the "hostile and provocative" action, which he attributed to "a conspiracy of the common enemies of India and Afghanistan," Kabul radio stated.

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National Front Provincial Chairman Assassinated

LD301912 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 30 Jan 87

[Text] A national and social figure of Konduz Province, Chairman of the DRA National Front Provincial Council and of the Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation of Konduz Province Haji Abdol Ahad Arzbegi, died last night, aged 50, after an attempt on his life.

The funeral of the deceased took place this afternoon. It was attended by Abdollah Bahar, head of the Agriculture, Land Reform, and Cooperatives Department of the PDPA Central Committee; Sher Aqa Sereshk, head of the north-east zone; Mohammad Yasin, secretary of the Provincial Party Committee of Konduz Province; some party and state officials; and thousands of the toiling people of Konduz City.

A brief biography of the deceased was read after the funeral ceremony followed by talks about his life and (?qualities) by some ulemas and clergy and head of the north-east zone.

'Profound Sorrow' Expressed

LD301941 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 30 Jan 87

[Announcement by the DRA National Front Central Council and the DRA Supreme Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation; date and place not given]

[Text] The DRA National Front Central Council and the DRA Supreme Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation with profound sorrow learned of the martyrdom of Abdol Ahad Arzbegi, member of the executive board of the DRA National Front Central Council, chairman of the National Front Provincial Council of Konduz Province, and chairman of the Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation of Konduz Province.

The National Front Central Council and the Supreme Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation regard the martyrdom of Abdol Ahad Arzbegi as the first sacrifice of the lofty cause of national reconciliation and as an irreplaceable loss, and attaches great importance to his lofty work for the cause of national reconciliation, maintaining relations with quarreling brothers, and inviting them to enter into peaceful work and fraternal coexistence.

The DRA National Front Central Council and the Supreme Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation, while strongly condemning this terrorist and cowardly act, call on all the peace-loving people of Konduz to continue their profound and comprehensive struggle to secure peace and national reconciliation and request them to struggle in a closer and more united and indefatigable manner to achieve the objectives of national reconciliation.

The DRA National Front Central Council and the Supreme Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation, while profoundly regretting this tragic incident and regarding the martyrdom of Abdol Ahad Arzbegi as an irreplaceable loss, express their profound sorrow to the Provincial Council of Konduz Province, the Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation, his family, and all the people of Konduz Province and share their grief and sorrow.

[Signed] The DRA National Front Central Council and the DRA Supreme Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation

Delhi: Car Bomb Explodes Near Indian Embassy

BK020311 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 2 Feb 87

[Text] In Kabul a car bomb exploded near the Indian Embassy yesterday, killing four Afghans and injuring several others. Two children were among those killed in the blast. Fifteen members of the embassy were slightly hurt. Kabul radio said the bomb went off around noon in the center of the capital, damaging the embassy premises and shattering windows and nearby buildings. The radio said that Afghan leader Dr Najib later visited the embassy. He blamed the antigovernment rebels for the blast and said the rebels were determined to wreck the government ceasefire and the national reconciliation campaign. He also said the explosion was an attempt to harm relations between India and Afghanistan. The radio said the Afghan Government has warned the residents that there could be more bomb attacks.

Reports from Kabul say that the bomb went off in an area near several government buildings, including the Interior Ministry. The car was left near a major girl school and the explosion occurred around the time students would have been leaving.

Najibullah Espresses Regret

LD011630 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 1 Feb 87

[Text] PDPA Central Committee General Secretary Comrade Najib accompanied by Acting President of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium Haji Mohammad Chamkani; and Comrade Abdol Wakil, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of foreign affairs, this afternoon at 1625 went to the Embassy of the Republic of India in Kabul. On behalf of the party, government, and people of Afghanistan and on his own behalf he expressed regrets on the damage inflicted to the Indian Embassy, caused by explosive substances placed near the building. He conferred with Inder Pal Khosla, Indian ambassador to Kabul.

Expressing regrets, Comrade Najib stated that this provocative action is considered to be a conspiracy of the common enemies of India and Afghanistan who, by utilizing such inhumane actions, want to damage friendly relations between the DRA and the Republic of India on the one hand, and on the other hand to display hostility against the nonaligned policy of India. Comrade Najib added that this shameful action was organized at a time when the policy of national reconciliation has been successfully advanced by the DRA party and state, and when the world is

looking forward optimistically to the results of the upcoming talks in Geneva.

Comrade Najib added that such hostile and provocative actions can in no way damage the friendly and traditional, historic relations between the DRA and Republic of India. The people of both countries, due to their traditional relations and common stand regarding life in peace and security will stand together forever. Comrade Najib instructed the relevant organs to compensate those who sustained losses as a result of the explosion near the Embassy of India. He consoled the families of those sacrificed in the incident.

A BIA correspondent reports that [word indistinct] enemies at 1220 had placed some explosive substances in a private car beside the Indian Embassy in Kabul. As a result of the explosion, the embassy building and some adjacent buildings were damaged. Four of our compatriots, including two children, were martyred and a number were wounded.

The BIA correspondent adds that the Kabul City National Reconciliation Commission strongly condemns this criminal action, and requests all Kabul residents to watch security in the city and cooperate with the country's security authorities, and not let extremist elements disrupt citizens' peaceful life.

Najibullah Interviewed by Indian Paper
LD302217 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 30 Jan 87

[Text] Kabul, January 29, BAKHTAR — Najib, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA, has lately granted [an] interview to Rajiv Shah, a reporter of *Patriot* newspaper of India. Following is the text of the interview:

Question: Based on an anti-imperialist character. can the process of national reconciliation assist the consolidation of peace and security in South Asia?
Answer: You have tacitly mentioned the anti-imperialist character of the national reconciliation. Truly, imperialism makes use of every conflict, both big and small, in different parts of the world including Asia to disturb peace. Make your own judgement, if the issue around Afghanistan is solved, a hot-bed of tension will be removed in this part of Asia. Therefore, the process of national reconciliation, the aim of which is to remove such a hot-bed, is directly related to ensurance of peace and security in the region.

Question: What role will be played by Indo-Afghan relations in this issue, i.e., peace and security in Asia? Please comment on the role of Islamabad in collusion with Washington in this regard.
Answer: First and foremost, both countries are active members of the Non-aligned Movement and that their joint endeavours in the framework of this movement and also seperately play a significant role in the solution of the conflicts. The peace-loving policy of India concerning the preservation of peace in the region especially the joint Indo-Soviet declaration signed in the course of the visit of Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev to India shows a very confident way for the realization of this end. On the contrary, Islamabad policy, which enjoys since years the full-fledged support of Reagan administration, has been for many times the source of unrest and tension in the region during the last years. The danger also exists in future too, because huge financial assistance has been rendered by the U.S. to the Government of Pakistan. American advisors are in Pakistan. Pakistan is being equipped with new weapons and modern ammunitions by the U.S.

Question: The process of national reconciliation is an important step towards the unification of different forces and strata. In what way do you think that this matter will be able to give a new concept to the socio-economic aspects of the national-democratic revolution?
Answer: The policy of national reconciliation is aimed at the unity and cohesion of all patriotic forces and strata of the country. Patriotic sentiments strongly exist among our people and give way to their active participation in the revolutionary transformations. In turn, this resulted to the adoption of a great political step, i.e., the preparedness of the state for the realization of national reconciliation process. In our country, all the foundations of life are based on the principles of social justice.

Question: What do you say about the role of the progressive religious personalities in carrying out social changes?
Answer: The links of the PDPA with the masses of people, the majority of whom are Moslems, have been consolidated more than any other time. This religion of Islam constitutes part of the moral of the people of our country and with the consolidation of the links of the party with the people, ever-greater large numbers of clergymen turn to revolutionary transformations. At present, tens of thousands of patriotic clergymen have stood in defending the revolution in words and in deeds. This is a manifestation of the popular character of our revolution.

Question: What are your other main difficulties, except the un-declared war imposed on Afghanistan by imperialism, in the construction of a new society?
Answer: The answer is embodied in your question. War, war, and only the undeclared war.

Question: What economic measures shall be taken by your party and government in order to carry out social transformation in your society?
Answer: We have the first post-revolution five year plan (1986-1991) which is superior in regard to its volume than the previous such plans. But I would like to point out that this plan has been approved in the condition of undeclared war and the condition when military budget is approved. We take pride in our five year plan and the people of Afghanistan have accepted it as a vital task and put it into practice successfully. Hereby, it provides realistic conditions for the improvement of the living standard of the people.

Pakistan Deterring of Refugees' Return Protested
LD010730 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 1 Feb 87

[Text] Kabul, January 31, BAKHTAR — Charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul was summoned today to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the following was conveyed to him by the Political Office:

The Government of the DRA has taken serious steps for paving the grounds for earliest return of the Afghans living far from the country. Despite the contacts with the Pakistani authorities, the latter have deterred the return of the Afghans by using various means. For instance, a joint session was held on January six between the commanders of Army Regiment No 11 in Peshawar, police commander of Sobe Sarhad, and Pakistani commissioners for refugees. The participants of the session decided for establishing a joint command consisting of the forces of the Army, police, border militias, and the Afghan armed groups for taking 255 refugees camps under surveillance.

Similarly, the Afghan armed groups in cooperation with the government forces of Pakistan deterred on January 1 the return of 300 families from Surkhabad Camp near the border. Later, on January 17, the Afghan armed groups helped by Pakistani secret police and some other reactionary forces have taken steps for hampering the return of a great number of Afghans residing in Peshawar and Karachi.

On January 19, on the one hand, a clash took place between the Afghan armed groups and the Pakistani security forces and on the other between the latter and a number of Afghans on their way to their homeland. As a result of this clash, the security forces of Pakistan captured and arrested 31 Afghans. In the same manner, the Afghans who intend to return home are being intimidated under various titles including as an agent of the DRA and are taken to prison.

These evidences show that despite that the Pakistani authorities are tacitly expressing their desire for the return of the Afghans to their homeland, they are using every means for hampering their return and have given a negative reply to the request of the Government of the DRA for cooperating in this respect. It is clear that this attitude is in full contradiction with the inter-state norms and principles on the established (?rights) of the refugees for their return to their homeland.

The Government of the DRA lodges its protest to the Government of Pakistan as to its hostile and illegal behaviour and is demanding from it to remove at the earliest the obstacles on the return of the Afghans to their homeland.

Iranian Charge D'Affaires Summoned

LD011758 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 1 Feb 87

[Text] The charge d' affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry at 1000 today. The official in charge of Politicial Section No 2 of the Foreign Ministry handed him a protest note.

Explaining the importance of the recent measures of the DRA party and state in connection with the need to implement the policy of national reconciliation, to maintain nationwide peace, and to end the war and bloodshed in the country, the note outlined that these measures have received broad support by Afghan citizens both inside the country and abroad, including Afghan citizens residing in Iran. As a result of these measures, a great number of our compatriots in Iran decided to return to their homeland.

The note mentioned various measures taken by the Iranian authorities to prevent our compatriots from returning to their country, such as the incident on 20 January when obstacles where created preventing the return of 150 Afghan families by way of Tayyebat, the closure of border centers for Afghan returnees, and the instructions issued by the Iranian authorities to the heads of the armed groups in connection with disrupting and sabotaging the policy of national reconciliation among the Afghans residing in Iran.

In the protest note against the Iranian measures, measures that are contrary to all internationally accepted norms concerning the right of refugees to freely return to their homeland, the Iranian authorities were asked to end their hostile actions and eliminate as soon as possible the obstacles that prevent the return of our compatriots to their country in response to the sincere efforts of the DRA whose only aim is the maintenance of peace and security in Afghan society.

Gandhi Holds Talks With Malaysia's Mahathir

BK301628 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 30 Jan 87

[Text] India and Malaysia have agreed on the need to expand trade and economic relations and strengthen bilateral ties. The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the visiting Malaysian prime minister, Dr Mahathir bin Mohamed, during their talks lasting over 1 hour and 45 minutes felt that trade between the two countries should be taken to a higher level. This should take into account the adverse trade balance between the two countries.

The two leaders, who met without aides, also exchanged views on the international situation covering Cambodia, South Asia, Africa as well as setting up of the Africa Fund at the 9-nation summit in New Delhi recently. The two leaders were in full agreement that the idea of South Commission should be supported to give impetus to the South-South cooperation. The ministerial-level delegations of the two countries also held talks and were led by their foreign ministers.

Mahathir Ends Visit; Departs

BK010849 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 1 Feb 87

[Text] The Malaysian prime minister, Dr Mahathir bin Mohamed, left New Delhi this morning at the end of his 4-day visit to India. He was given a ceremonial sendoff at the airport. The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi; the external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari; and senior officials were present.

During his stay the Malaysian prime minister had talks with Mr Gandhi on expanding trade and economic relations. They also discussed measures for strengthening bilateral ties.

Gandhi Says No Compromise on National Security

BK311249 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Text] The prime minister has made it clear there cannot be any compromise as far as national security is concerned. He said we always want peace and have been taking steps to achieve this end.

Mr Gandhi said India will never take any step which could lead to war with any country. He was addressing a gathering of Congress workers from all over Uttar Pradesh in Lucknow this afternoon.

Reminding the people that the struggle against colonialism has not yet ended, the prime minister said new pressures are being mounted on the developing nations to prevent them from becoming self-reliant. He called upon the people to wage a relentless war against the forces of communalism, regionalism, and casteism in order to contribute to the task of national reconstruction.

Pakistani Delegation Arrives for Border Talks

BK301609 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 30 Jan 87

[Text] The 5-member Pakistani delegation led by its foreign secretary, Mr Abdus Sattar, arrived in New Delhi tonight. The secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr Alfred Gonsalves, received them. The secretary-level 2-day talks, which begin tomorrow, will explore ways and means to de-escalate the situation on the Indo-Pak border. Mr Gonsalves will be assisted by the Indian ambassador in Islamabad, Mr S.K. Singh, and officials of the External Affairs Ministry and the Defense Ministry.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan ambassador, Mr Humayun Khan, called on the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, today.

Talks Begin 31 Jan

BK310644 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0630 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Excerpts] The secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan have begun in New Delhi to explore ways and means to de-escalate the situation on the Indo-Pak border. [passage omitted]

Earlier, this morning Mr Abdus Sattar called on the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh.

Spokesman Terms Talks 'Frank'

BK311605 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Excerpt] Official-level delegations of India and Pakistan held two rounds of talks in New Delhi today lasting over 4 and 1/2 hours. They discussed measures to prevent further escalation [of] tension along the Indo-Pakistan border and also to deescalate the situation.

Briefing newsmen, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said the talks, which were held in a frank, businesslike, and cordial atmosphere, promoted better mutual understanding. The talks will continue tomorrow. [passage omitted]

AFP Says 'Concrete Proposals' Made

BK011542 Hong Kong AFP in English 1531 GMT 1 Feb 87

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 1 (AFP) — India and Pakistan made concrete proposals Sunday to defuse tension along their common border, where thousands of troops are massed, an Indian official said here Sunday. "The concrete and specific proposals which emerged Sunday aim at de-escalation and preventing further escalation of tension on the border," a spokesman for India's Foreign Ministry said after a second day of talks between senior officials of the two countries. The spokesman refused to go into details, but said two days of "frank and cordial" talks had shown there were "no unbridgeable differences" between the two countries. The two sides were to have further informal exchanges

Sunday and would meet to discuss the proposals on Monday, he added.

India has moved thousands of troops to the border in the last nine days in response to what New Delhi said was Pakistan's failure to pull its forces back from the border area after normal winter exercises. Ismamabad accused New Delhi of massing "unprecedented" numbers of soldiers in preparation for war and said India's call for a Pakistani pullback was unfair.

Pakistani Foreign Secretary Abdus Sattar and Alred Gonsalves, secretary in the Indian External Affairs Ministry, met for an hour Sunday, preceded by prolonged internal discussions within the two delegations, the spokesman said. Mr Sattar had called on Minister of State for External Affairs Natwar Singh for 30 minutes Saturday.

Mr Sattar's visit followed an Indian request for discussions to de-escalate the crisis, which saw politicians trading charges that each country was planning to attack the other.

Pakistani President Mohammed Ziaul-Haq is expected to visit India to watch a cricket test match between the two countries, media reports have said.

An estimated 500,000 troops are on both sides of the border between the two countries, which have fought three wars since independence in 1947. The civilian population in India's extreme northern villages has begun to flee after local residents heard the rumble of Pakistani tanks just across the border, an indian newspaper said Sunday. The civilian exodus from villages in Samba and Hiranagar areas in the border state of Jammu and Kashmir began last weekend, the daily said. India and Pakistan fought a major tank battle at Samba in 1971. *The Indian Express* quoted a resident of Raingalad village, near the border, as saying that about three-quarters of his village's 500 families had sent out their women and children.

Talks Extended by 1 Day

BK011559 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 1 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Specific proposals have emerged during the talks between the official-level delegations of India and Pakistan in New Delhi to prevent escalation of tension and deescalate the situation on the Indo-Pakistan border. Briefing newsmen, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that in view of this the duration of the talks has been extended by 1 day till tomorrow. The two delegations spent most of the time today discussing among their own members' proposals which emerged from yesterday's deliberations. In the afternoon the two sides held formal discussions on concrete measures to tackle the situation. [passage omitted]

Press Conference Dismissal of Official Viewed

BK311515 Delhi THE INDIAN EXPRESS in English
22 Jan 87 p 6

[Editorial: "Deplorable"]

[Text] Mr Rajiv Gandhi acted deplorably at Tuesday's press conference by virtually sacking the Foreign Secretary, Mr A.P. Venkateswaran, in public. Such unprecedented shabby treatment of the top official of the Foreign Office, who was present at the press conference, not only devalues the post in public eyes and demoralises the civil services, it smacks of an apparently impulsive frame of mind which does not sit well on the shoulders of a prime minister. It was not merely that Mr Gandhi chose a public forum to make his announcement; it appeared to have been made on the spur of the moment. Indeed, had the correspondent of *Jang* in Pakistan (asking the final question of a two-hour session) not persisted with inquiring after Mr Gandhi's plans to visit his country, the issue might not have come up at all.

Of course, the Prime Minister and the Government have a right to change a foreign secretary, even sack him, if the situation warrants. But what Mr Gandhi did is most certainly no way to go about it. If the Prime Minister did not want him to continue, Mr Venkateswaran could have been asked to resign or he could have been posted away and replaced. But a public humiliation, for whatever reason, has grave implications, and undermines the credibility of the Government. Mr Gandhi cannot run the government single-handedly and the civil services are the principal instrument with which he operates. He is unlikely to get cooperation out of a bureaucracy he needlessly alienates if he continues to act in this manner.

It is far from clear what precisely triggered Mr Gandhi's outburst. According to sources, the Prime Minister felt that Mr Venkateswaran had exceeded his brief on his last visit to Pakistan, an explanation which synchronises with the fact that Mr Gandhi's dismissive remark was made in the context of a question on Pakistan. It is also reported that Mr Gandhi's decision to replace Mr Venkateswaran had been committed to paper three or four days before the press conference. Whether or not Mr Venkateswaran knew of this is not relevant; he may not have got on well with the Prime Minister, but he could not have reached his present position unless he was an outstanding officer. Understandably, he opted for the only course open to him and resigned with immediate effect. It is no surprise that the bureaucracy indentifies with Mr Venkateswaran and that there is no sympathy in the corridors of power for Mr Gandhi's deplorable action.

Curfew Imposed in Ahmadabad After Violence

BK301600 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 30 Jan 87

[Text] In Ahmadabad, indefinite curfew has been imposed in Bapunagar from 1700 this evening following violent incidents during the victory procession of a candidate in the Ahmadabad Municipal corporation. Police fired seven rounds to disperse a violent crowd indulging in stone throwing and arson. Six persons have been injured in the incident. Meanwhile, five more results have been declared in the Ahmadabad Municipal Corporation elections. With this, 83 results have so far been declared out of 127 seats. The Bharatiya Janata Party got 42, Congress-I 17, Janata 17, and independents 7.

Further Violence Reported

BK311609 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Text] In Ahmadabad, one person was killed and another injured in two incidents of stabbing today. According to the police the incidents occurred during the curfew relaxation period. Curfew has been reimposed in Bapunagar as a precautionary measure for 12 hours from 1900 [1330 GMT] this evening. The situation is reported to be under control.

Ziaul Haq on ICO Concern Over Border Tension

BK300404 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 30 Jan 87

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq Has said the leaders of Islamic countries whom he met in Kuwait have expressed concern over the situation arising out of the massive Indian troops concentration near Pakistan's borders and offered all possible cooperation to improve the situation and to reduce tension. The president was addressing a crowded news conference on his return to Islamabad last night after leading the Pakistani delegation to the Fifth ICO Summit conference. He said the summit conference was totally successful. He said he assured the leaders of the Islamic countries that Pakistan is capable of meeting any situation. He asked them to pray for the success of Pakistan's efforts to defuse tension and normalize relations with its neighboring country, India. In this connection, Pakistan has already launched peace efforts in a positive manner. The president said he is thankful to the Islamic countries for their interest in Pakistan's solidarity and stability. He made special mention of the concern expressed by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

In reply to a question, the president said Pakistan is a peace-loving country and wants peace with all countries, but everyone should know that it will not compromise on principles. He stressed the need to create an atmosphere of confidence and expressed the hope that India and Pakistan will be able to gain control of this temporary situation and that relations between the two countries will improve through the secretary-level talks to begin in New Delhi.

The president said the conference dicussed among other things, Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq war, the Middle-East conflict, the Palestine issue, and matters pertaining to the Muslim minorities in non-Muslim countries. He said every member of the conference expressed concern over the war between the fraternal countries Iran and Iraq. He said although we are not able to end this war, I hope that the efforts to end it will continue.

Referring to the approval of the resolution on the Afghanistan problem, the president said the conference expressed the opinion that the Afghanistan problem will be solved through the ICO resolutions and the UN-sponsored indirect talks in Geneva. A quick Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan will help to establish good relations between the Islamic countries and the Soviet Union.

On the Middle East problem, the president said the conference has reiterated, among other things, that a durable peace in the Middle East cannot be created as long as the Palestinians are not granted the right of self-determination to establish their independent nation, and until the Israeli forces withdraw from all occupied Arab territories.

The president said Pakistan played a significant and positive role at the summit conference. He said as the chairman of the committee on science and technology he submitted the report and recommendations of the committee which were appreciated very much at the conference. The conference decided that all future work pertaining to the promotion of cooperation in science and technology will be done through the committee.

On his meeting with the leaders of various countries and governments, the president said he offered all possible cooperation in all fields, especially in civil aviation and information, on behalf of Pakistan.

Junejo's 26 Jan Speech to Parliament

BK311100 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
26 Jan 87 p 1, 8

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 26 — Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo told the special session of Parliament here today that Pakistan did not want to exacerbate tension with India but undoubtedly an unusual situation had emerged on our borders, permitting no complacency and necessitating vigilance.

In a comprehensive statement taking into confidence the members of the Paliament about the massive deployment of the Indian armed forces in forward positions close to Pakistan's borders, the Prime Minister said he did not want to sound alarm bells as some newspaper reports have indicated today that the Indian Government is positively examining Islamabad's offer of talks on the subject. But he added that a formal Indian reply was still awaited and he could not yet say that the situation had become normal.

Amidst thumping of tables the Prime Minister declared that Pakistan was committed to seek peace on the basis of principles but this commitment should not be mistaken as a sign of weakness on our part as the armed forces and people of Pakistan were capable of defending the country and resisting any aggression against their freedom or solidarity.

Though his statement was largely devoted to the explanation of the sudden adverse turn in relations with India since last Friday, the Prime Minister also briefly noted an improvement in relations with the Soviet Union, hoping that these would improve further and more speedily after a just solution of the Afghanistan problem. He said the Pakistan Government was intensely conscious of the fact that this problem should be settled politically at the earliest possible time and in accordance with international principles.

The Prime Minister promised a full-dress debate on foreign policy in the joint sitting of two Houses of Parliament later after the return of the Foreign Minister from the OIC Summit. Today's meeting, he added, had been convened at short notice after the Indian Government had summoned our envoy in New Delhi last Friday and communicated the decision to order alert to its army and air force and seal its Punjab border with Pakistan.

The House was prorogued after Mr Junejo's statement.

The Prime Minsiter, after recounting the last three days developments, reiterated that Pakistan was not interested in taking advantage of any other country's internal difficulties — an obvious reference to the developments in the Indian Punjab. "We are always in quest of good relations in the region, particularly with our neighbours. This is part of our calculated strategy of maintaining peace, stability, and progress in South Asia", Mr Junejo said.

He said Pakistan also expected a positive response from India to our goodwill and the need to promote bilateral relations. The problems between us, he added, could be settled peacefully and the Kashmir issue could also be resolved in accordance with the Simla Accord and on the basis of U.N. Resolutions.

APP *[Associated Press of Pakistan]* adds: Prime Minister Junejo said that the Afghanistan problem had directly affected Pakistan "as it is related to our own security".

He said the Government of Pakistan strongly felt that this issue should find a very early political solution in accordance with recognised international principles.

The Prime Minister also reviewed Pakistan's relations with the People's Republic of China, United States of America, the Soviet Union, Islamic countries and said that Pakistan scrupulously adhered to established international principles in its efforts to promote peace and stability all over the world and particularly in this region.

He said Pakistan's friendly relations with other countries were anchored in the ssme principles. "We are deeply grateful to the People's Republic of China, United States of America, the Islamic countries, and members of the Non-Aligned Movement who have extended all help and cooperation to us", he said.

He said that Pakistan had been engaged in individual and collective efforts to bring to an end the tragic conflict between the fraternal Islamic countries of Iran and Iraq and to promote an acceptable and just settlement for it.

Mr Junejo, while listing the efforts being made to bring down tensions said "our commitment to peace is based on principles". "But, nobody should mistake it as a sign of weakness," he made it clear.

He emphatically stated that "our armed forces and our people have the determination and the capability to defend Pakistan".

Mr Junejo said, "It is our covenant with Almighty Allah that we shall never be found wanting in the defence of our motherland".

He said the people have to remember that there is no greater guarantee of a nation's security and the inviolability of its frontiers than its unity and solidarity.

Democracy, he said, implies the existence of varying perspectives and different approaches to our common problems. But, there are questions of national survival and the integrity of the nation which transcend all other considerations. "On these issues, we must have a national consensus", he emphasised.

He said, it is the purpose of the democratic institutions to bring about a national consensus on important issues, and this is the real strength of democracy.

The Prime Minister said his government is striving for peace in this region.

He said:

— "Let there be no mistake about our respone to resist aggression".
— "Let nobody be in any doubt that every inch of our soil will be defended resolutely".
— "Nobody should take a decision to violate our territory want only". [sentence as published]
— "Let there be no miscalculation that irresponsible actions will be catastrophic for the entire region and will only bring unimaginable sufferings to its people".
— "I am confident that such untoward consequences can be completely averted", the Prime Minister said.

Mr Junejo said the session of the Parliament has been summoned against the backdrop of an important issue. This representative House, he said, has always demonstrated patriotism and a sense of responsibility — reflecting the views of the Pakistani people on important issues in the best interests of the country. Its unanimous voice is the voice of the entire nation.

Informing the House regarding the massing of Indian troops on Pakistani borders, the Prime Minister described it as "a matter of grave importance".

He said the Pakistani Ambassador in New Delhi was summoned to the Indian Foreign Office on January 23 — Friday. He was told by the Indian Minister of State for External Affairs that certain moves by the Pakistan armed forces — which have been conducting routine military exercises — were of an offensive nature.

He said the Indian government demanded that the Pakistani forces be withdrawn to peace-time locations, failing which India will take some counter-measures.

On the same day, the Indian Defence Minister issued a statement alleging forward movements by the Pakistan armed forces and laying of mines.

Mr Junejo said the Indian demand for unilateral withdrawal by the Pakistani forces to peace-time locations was "manifestly unjust". He said the Pakistani Ambassador was given no information as to when the Indian military exercises will come to an end.

The Indian side said nothing to the Pakistani Ambassador about the withdrawal to peace-time locations of 11 divisions and five independent brigades including armoured formations of the Indian army, which have been exercising near Pakistan's borders.

Mr Junejo said the Indian government did not wait for Pakistan's response to these allegations. It was announced the same day that Indian armed formations have been sent to occupy positions on Pakistan's borders. It was evident from a statement put out by the Indian Defence Ministry that the political committee of the Indian Cabinet had already approved the step. The statement also made it clear that their forward movement was to be completed by mid-night on the same day.

Mr Junejo said, "this escalation in the situation, prevailing on the border, was both unwarranted and provocative."

He said "the allegations made in regard to the foward movement of the Pakistan armed forces were totally false". The winter exercises of the Paistan army were, more or less, in their final stages, and in many cases the troops were already engaged in returning to their peace-time locations.

Mr Junejo said on receiving the Indian protest he convened a meeting of the defence committee of the Cabinet on Friday evening. "We carried out a thorough review of the situation on the borders, and examined the implications of the Indian threat to further build up their forces, he said.

"We reached the conclusion that immediate steps need to be taken to improve the worsening situation", he added.

It was, he said, certainly not in anybody's interest to allow this spiral of mistrust and tension to grow any futher. "I have always put great emphasis on this point", Mr Junejo said.

Mr Junejo recalled that there have been positive developments in India-Pakistan relations since he met Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India, in Bangalore on November 16 last.

He said the interests of both the countries demand that this positive trend should not be allowed to be dissipated.

He said: "We have, therefore, lost no time in proposing that the two governments enter into immediate consultations for the deescalation of the tension'.

As a step in that direction, the Indian Ambassador in Islamabad was summoned by Zain Noorani, Minister of State for External Relations, on Friday evening. The Ambassador was apprised of the Pakistani Government proposals that the two countries enter into immediate consultations for measures to achieve this de-escalation, and to restore normalcy and tranquillity in bilateral relations.

He said unfortunately, an air of uncertainty and apprehension has prevailed since India embarked upon a military exercise close to Pakistan's borders. While normal exercises create no apprehensions, the Indian plan for exercises this winter had some unusual aspects which could not but raise concern. It is massive in scale, and the largest military exercise ever held in South Asia. It was but natural that the assembly of such large number of troops close to the Pakistani borders will create a situation of apprehension and danger. "It gave to the troops on the move a capability that could be diverted from the purpose of an exercise", the Prime Minister said. The movements, he said, were taking place without clear advance notice by India to Pakistan, which added to Islamabad's concern.

The Prime Minister said, the Government of Pakistan could not ignore this situation. "There was no greater responsibility for it than to ensure the security and territorial integrity of the country", Mr Junejo said.

He said: "We had to take appropriate precautions at least on a minimum scale".

Mr Junejo said: "We have no option but to maintain full vigilance".

He said India should not expect that in the face of heavy concentration of its military might close to Pakistani borders, Islamabad will not take any precautionary measures whatsoever. "We made some defensive arrangements, but we took scrupulous care to avoid steps which might heighten tension between the two countries".

The Prime Minister said, "We did not want Pakistan and India to get caught up in a vicious circle of action and reaction which will bring about dangerous consequences".

The Prime Minister renewed his earlier efforts to improve relations with India. "We seek peaceful and cordial relations with India on the basis of sovereign equality and mutuality of benefits and objective conditions exist for the two countries to open a new chapter in their relations. [no closing quotation mark as published]

Mr Junejo asked members of the Parliament to have a full debate on his speech and the situation on borders when they meet on Monday in their respective Houses.

Ministers Given Additional Portfolios 1 Feb

BK011605 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 1 Feb 87

[Text] The prime minister has entrusted additional responsibilities of several departments to some federal ministers effective today. The ministers and their additional portfolios are as follows:

Communications
Malik Nasim Ahmad Ahir
Labor, Manpower, and Overseas Pakistani Affairs
Mohammad Ibrahim
Petroleum and Natural Resources
Mohammad Hanif Taiyeb
Production
Chaudhary Shujat Hussain
Water and Power
Qazi Abdul Majid Abid
Culture and Tourism
Mohammad Aslam Khan Khattak
Religious and Minorities Affairs
Syed Qasim Shah

NWFP Cabinet Ministers Resign; New Cabinet Coming

BK290315 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 29 Jan 87

[Text] All the ministers of Northwest Frontier Province [NWFP] cabinet tendered their resignation to the chief minister, Arbab Mohammad Jahangir Khan, to enable him to form a new cabinet in view of the (?changing representation) situation in the province.

At a special session of the NWFP cabinet in Peshawar last night the cabinet members unanimously expressed their confidence in the leadership of Arbab Mohammad Jahanqir Khan. The chief minister lauded their spirit and requested them to continue their services till the formation of a new cabinet.

Afghan Refugees' Return Never Obstructed

BK281532 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Jan 87

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman described reports on return of Afghan refugees [to Afghanistan] as propaganda of the Kabul reigme aimed at publicizing a positive reaction to its proposals on the issue. The spokesman said that the fact is that thousands of refugees are coming to Pakistan every month, thereby increasing the number of refugees in Pakistan. The spokesman said that the Pakistani Government has never asked the Afghan refugees to come nor obstructed their return.

100 Refugee Families Return Home

BK310955 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 23 Jan 87 p 8

[Text] Peshawar, Jan 22 — A caravan of 100 refugee families reportedly returned home via the border village Arandu in Chi tral District yesterday. More refugees are meanwhile preparing to leave.

The returning refugees took along with them their belongings as they slowly trekked beyond Arandu. Women and children were predominant in the group which left yesterday. These refugees were stated to be aligned with the Hezb-e Eslami of Maulvi Unis Khalis.

However, the Deputy Chief of the Hezb-e Eslami Haji Din Mohammad when contracted by *The Muslim* pooh-phooed the idea and argued that it was most unlikely owing to the siege of the Barikowt Garrison facing Arandu across the Chitral River by Mujahidin since the past one year. He said the garrison is supplied by the Kabul army through helicopters and the area beyond Barikowt till Asmar and Changhserai was also in the hands of Mujahidin. He added that only the Nuristanis keep criss-crossing the Durand Line as their area was 'liberated' but it was beyond comprehension as to where will the returning refugees go because the Kabul regime was in no position to provide them shelter and food in Barikowt.

Gunmen Attack Bhutto Convoy, Abduct 3 Persons

NC281826 Paris AFP in English 1750 GMT 28 Jan 87

[Text] Karachi, Jan 28 (AFP) — Gunmen Wednesday attacked Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto's jeep and abducted three persons including her personal body guard, Pakistan People Party (PPP) sources said.

Ms Bhutto, 33, was not in the jeep when armed men waylaid the vehicle and, opening fire with assault rifles, abducted her body-guard, personal servant, and the jeep driver. Two other cars in the caravan managed to avoid the gunmen, they said. However, her party sources in Karachi have charged that it was an attempt to assasinate Ms Bhutto.

Ms Bhutto was to visit Dadu town in southern Sind Province to attend a wedding by road but she made a last minute change in her programme and instead went by air, they said. They said when the caravan of three PPP cars including her jeep reached Majnoon, a village some 30 miles (50 km) north of Hyderabad on the Indus Highway the gunmen attacked and kidnapped three persons from the jeep.

According to local sources armed gunmen known as dacoits (bandits) have been operating on the Indus Highway kidnapping influential people for ransom purposes and last year authorities used troops to carry out operations against dacoits. But PPP sources dismissed that the gunmen could have been the highway robbers.

Bhutto's Aides Reportedly Rescued

BK010232 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Feb 87

[Text] According to the *Associated Press of Pakistan* three aides of Miss Benazir Bhutto who were kidnapped last Wedenesday [28 January] by unknown gunmen have been rescued. The provincial interior secretary told the news agency that these persons are being brought to Hyderabad.

Two Killed in Renewed Karachi Violence

BK311715 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1700 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Text] Violent incidents took place in Orangi area today. According to official sources in Karachi, violent mobs stoned vehicles and indulged in arson. Two persons were killed and some injured in an exchange of fire between police and rioters. The situation is now under control, according to these sources.

Press Note Issued

BK310235 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Text] A press note issued by the Karachi administration says some miscreants in District West [preceding two words in English] set fire to a Pakistan steel mill bus at the 11th sector of Orangi town yesterday. Later, a very big mob gathered at Qadafi square, stoned the police, and threw petrol bombs. Police used tear gas to control the angry mob. A police constable and a civilian from the area were accidently injured by bullets. They have been admitted to hospital. Some persons have been arrested and the situation is under control.

SRI LANKA

Operation Launched Against Tamil 'Militants'

BK301618 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 30 Jan 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 150 civilians are reported killed in the eastern Batticaloa District in the biggest ever military operation launched by the government against Tamil militants. This is the highest ever casualty figure so far during the 3-year-old war between the security forces and the militants. In a telegram to the president, Mr Jayewardene, the Batticaloa Citizens Committee, expressing shock and outrage at the systematic killing, urged him to stop this. It requested him to immediately appoint a civilian commission of inquiry into the incident. Independent sources, meanwhile, told our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, that the security forces are now collecting dead bodies and burning them. The forces are also conducting house-to-house search to round up male members.

Meanwhile, the coordinating committee of the citizens committee of Tamil areas in a statement from Jaffna said the whole of Jaffna peninsula today observed a protest hartal [strike] to let the rest of the world know the gradual process of genocide and annihilation of Tamil-speaking people carried out by the Sri Lankan Government by directly killing innocent civilians and imposing economic blockade.

The Indian ambassador in Colombo, Mr J.N. Dixit, has been called to New Delhi for consultations with regard to the recent developments in Sri Lanka. He will hold discussion with the external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari; the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh; and others.

Alleged Killings 'Disinformation'

BK011019 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0959 GMT 1 Feb 87

[Sri Lanka: Special Communique — LANKA PUWATH headline; all quotation marks as received]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 01 (LANKA PUWATH) — "Various allegations are made in the international media notably the BBC and the *Guardian* stating that over 200 civilians have been killed in operations in Kokkadichcholai, Batticaloa, eastern Sri Lanka. These stories born out of reading war stories of the past two decades have been fed by the terrorists propaganda arm to those ears which are receptive to such headlines.

Kokkadichcholai is a nearly inaccessible area, approachable by the only road available today along an 18 mile long route. The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists had blasted the Manmunai ferry the popular and shortest access road to the Kokkadichcholai area.

Adjoining the lagoon which stretches from beyond Batticaloa downwards and towards the land side are swamps and marshes through which the uncertain footpaths to the lagoon are known only to the fishermen living there or to those who have learnt from them. Beyond the marsh is forest cover comprising scrub land and jungle and beyond paddy fields and peoples' huts. Around the area are more swamps and marshes as any old and large map would show.

Therefore, after blasting the Manmunai ferry and putting the sea- board road out of use, the scrubland and the forest of about 24 square miles was used by the LTTE for their main base camp and launching pad. From the sea and through the lagoon some amount of arms, ammunition, and terrorists could pass through undetected. Further, this area provided an excellent launching pad for terrorist activity".

"Thus, the propaganda arm of the terrorists feed some foreign correspondents living in the splendour of tourist hotels with borrowed 'war stories'.

In fact the Madras *Hindu* of 31.1.1987 states in banner headlines "200 Civilians Killed, Says LTTE and goes on to state that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam said here today the 200 civilians were killed by the Sri Lankan security forces in Batticaloa District".

The paper adds thus: "The spokesman added that 'our temporary guerilla base at Kokkadichcholai has been abandoned for practical reasons and not destroyed as Sri Lanka claims. He categorically said that not even a single LTTE militant had been killed in the three-day battle".

The leaders of the Kokkadichcholai area cut off from bus travel complained to the security forces and they were advised to remain indoors on the first signs of an advanced party. An advanced party of scouts also gave them warning. Therefore, the stories of 'human shields', and 200 killed (at first it was 35 killed, then 100 and now 200) are part and parcel of the terrorist disinformation campaign supported by certain foreign and South Asian individuals intent on destabilising not only Sri Lanka but India as well', states a special communique issued by the Media Centre in Colombo today.

Offensive Moves North to EROS Hideout

BK011134 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 1 Feb 87

[Text] Police, Special Task Force [STF] commanders who wrested complete control of Kokkadichcholai, south of Batticaloa, from the terrorists in a massive 3-day offensive, moved their forces northward yesterday capturing an Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students, EROS, hideout in the morning. Several motorcycles, explosives, detonators, batteries, wires, and other paraphernalia used in the manufacture of explosive devices along with EROS literature were recovered from the hideout in the jungle which had been abandoned by the terrorists.

According to a spokesman, the STF is now in complete control of the 25 square mile area of Kokkadichcholai which was used as a main operational base in the east by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, LTTE, and other terrorist groups. Three bases which would allow the STF complete control of the area have also been established.

12,000 Affected in Batticaloa

BK011654 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Feb 87

[Text] At least 12,000 people have been affected by the recent action of the security forces against Tamil militants in the eastern Batticaloa District. The 4,000 women and children, who were unable to get any rations for the last 3 days, received some relief supplies today.

Reports from Jaffna peninsula speak of a heavy battle between the security forces and militants at Point Pedro, which continued for 10 hours yesterday.

A government communique claimed that at least 15 militants were killed. It further said four security personnel were injured and one naval craft damaged.

Khamene'i Introduces New Air Force Commander
LD021229 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Feb 87

[Text] During the ceremony to introduce Colonel Mansur Sattari as the new commander of the Iranian Air Force, Chairman of the Supreme Defense Council Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i praised the important and determining role of the Armed Forces in the war. He pointed out that the experience of the revolution has been a successful one for the Armed Forces.

Expressing congratulations on the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, he added: It is an auspicious occasion for me to introduce the new Air Force commander — who is one of our esteemed brothers, a valuable and hardworking figure for the Armed Forces and on the battle scenes — to you commanders, on the beginning of the 10 Days of Dawn.

Referring to forces faithful to the Islamic Revolution, he said: Fortunately, we have been able to rebuild a unified Armed Forces. It is a vast and extensive organization comprising thousands of efficient and caring personnel, as demanded and approved by the revolution. And we have been able to identify the good personnel.

Praising the high-ranking officials of the Armed Forces for their services, he said: These individuals, who bear the greatest burden in the Armed Forces, were unknown but committed individuals who formed the main body of the Armed Forces. You have been able to preserve them to serve the homeland and its goals, to free it from the contamination and pollution that the enemy wanted.

Finally, he praised the former Air Force commanders for their services and stressed the importance of cooperation among the branches of the Armed Forces: Revolution Guards Corps, the Armed Forces, the Defense Ministry, the Joint Staff, the Police, and the Gendarmerie.

Speaks at Revolution Anniversary
LD011820 Tehran IRNA in English 1756 GMT 1 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 1, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Sunday that the Iranian nation is not afraid of either the U.S. or the Soviet Union which he said are acting in coordination against the Islamic Revolution.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the eighth anniversary of the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution at Hotel Laleh here, the president added that the world should recognize the Islamic Revolution because all attempts to defeat Islamic Iran have failed.

President Khamene'i also expressed regret over the pitiful plight of nearly one billion Muslims world-wide, who he said are descendents of a great civilization and rich culture. Despite this fact, most Muslims are dominated by un-Islamic powers because they (Muslims) have failed to use effectively the power of their huge resources and because they are indifferent to the fate of one another, he said.

There are Muslims in Muslim states who are unable to assert their Islamic identity because of their countries' dependence on either the Eastern or Western bloc, Khamene'i said. "The Islamic nation is now in a pitiful situation which needs to be rectified. Our government has taken strides to revive the Islamic nation," he added.

On the U.S. endeavours to resume relations with the Islamic Republic, the President said Washington's aborted efforts for a rapprochement with Iran had shocked the West, U.S. Government particularly without any consequences whatsoever felt in Iran.

Commenting on the brutal Iraqi air and missile attacks on Iranian residential areas, President Khamene'i said although such atrocities had claimed the lives of many innocent people including children and women and inflicted substantial damage on mosques, hospitals, and schools, people living in the bombed cities still chant slogans with clinched fists against the U.S. and reactionary states which are supplying Saddam's regime with arms.

Contrary to what the Baghdad government expected from its savage bombardments, the volunteers going to the war fronts from the bombed cities outnumber those of other cities, and their increasing presence in the battlefronts is quite tangible, stressed the president.

Elsewhere in his speech, Khamene'i advised the foreign guests participating in ten-day dawn ceremonies to call on wounded combatants and on relatives of martyrs of the Islamic Revolution in order to get a feel of the Iranian people's deep Islamic faith.

Khamene'i who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) said that bravery is another characteristic of the revolutionary nation of Iran. Unfortunately, he added, many leaders of the Third World and other countries lack courage to stand up and defy the big powers.

Those nations which are suffering from the aggression of the big powers lack bravery, said the president. "If such nations had shown courage," said Khamene'i, "their conditions would have been much better. If Third World leaders had not been afraid of the big powers, their peoples would not have been so weak in the face of the superpowers."

The SDC head furthermore hailed the Iranian nation as "really brave" because it has no fear of the U.S., or her rapid deployment forces or her riches which she used to employ thousands of mercenaries. "Such courage stems from the Iranian people's deep faith in Islam," he added.

On the Iranian people's spirit of self-sacrifice and their firm belief in the leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni, Khamene'i said it was the imam's great influence which has advanced the cause of the Islamic Revolution.

President Khamene'i added that problems imposed on the Iranian nation over the past eight years were so heavy that no other country except Islamic Iran could have understood.

Khamene'i said that no other government is able to overcome such difficulties as those of the 75-month imposed war and other economic and political plots which the Islamic Republic has encountered.

At least 74 guests from 19 countries as well as several Iranian civilian and military officials were also present in the ceremony.

Delivers Televised Message

LD010957 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 1 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 1, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i in a televised message to the Iranian nation Saturday evening congratulated them on the occasion of the ten day dawn celebrations, marking the 8th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Drawing a parallel between the pre and post-revolution period, the president said that in the past the Iranian nation had been alienated from its culture and spiritual values.

The Iranian people suffered from this alienation during centuries of monarchial rule which worsened under the 50 year rule of the toppled Pahlavi regime. The damage caused to the Iranian nation's dignity and the domination of the world oppressors over the country during the rule of the former regime has been unprecedented in the history of Iran.

The Islamic Revolution, he told the nation, was launched in response to such conditions. The 15 year long struggle of the Iranian people led by Imam Khomeyni resulted in the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Throughout the 15 years, President Khamene'i pointed out, Imam Khomeyni led the revolution which culminated in his historic return from forced exile on Feb 1, 1979.

The Islamic Revolution, is one of the greatest experiences in the history of nations, said the president.

Meanwhile, the president in an 11-hour long inspection of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) Saturday, toured different departments of the station where he talked to the staff and attended the noon prayers at the IRIB mosque. In an address to a gathering of the IRIB staff the president spoke on their great mission and said that through its programs the IRIB should familiarise the nation with its rich Islamic culture. In order to do away with undesirable Western culture, he added, and replace it with the rich Islamic culture, people should be taught to think Islamically, the president said.

On the role of radio and television under the former regime he said that they served as a means for spreading corrupt Western cultural values. However, at present their mission was different in that they advanced the cause of the Islamic Revolution and promoted Islamic culture. He also gave necessary guidelines to IRIB officials.

Journalist Accused of Spying for Israel Arrested

LD012344 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 1 Feb 87

[Text] A spy of the Qods occupying regime, who had come to Iran with a forged passport and disguised as a correspondent, was identified and arrested. On the basis of some information received, following the invitation given to foreign correspondents to visit the fronts and victories of the forces of Islam during the Karbala'-5 operations, a spy affiliated to the occupying regime of Qods, who had taken advantage of this opportunity and had arrived in Iran with a forged passport, was identified and arrested. He is now being questioned by the relevant officials.

Hoseyn Musavi Condemns Iraq's Arms Suppliers

LD011125 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 1 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 1, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Sunday condemned those countries which have provided the Iraqi regime with armaments to bombard Iranian cities. Referring to Iraqi bombardment of Iranian residential areas, the prime minister also deplored those who have remained silent over the Iraqi atrocities. Speaking in the cabinet ministers session he stressed the Iranian Government and nation were strongly determined to resist.

The prime minister congratulated the nation on the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and expressed hope that this year would be the year of victory of the Muslim forces of Iran.

The cabinet ministers discussed latest domestic and international developments and also Iraqi attacks on Iranian cities. Resistance of the Iranian people was lauded.

Meanwhile, a member of the Command Council of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) briefed the cabinet on victorious Karbala'-5 operations.

UN Envoy Says Iraqi Leader's Fall 'Inevitable'

LD302148 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT 30 Jan 87

[Text] Washington, Jan 30, IRNA — Iran's permanent representative to the UN Seyyed Rajai'e Khorasani said on Tuesday that the toppling of Iraqi dictator Saddam Husayn is "near and inevitable." Speaking at a press conference at the UN building in New York, Khorasani said that because Iraq's Saddam Husayn would certainly be overthrown, those who [were] supporting Iraq were only prolonging the war and increasing the casualty toll.

"After Saddam Husayn is eliminated both the Iranian and Iraqi people will begin to rebuild their war-damaged countries hand in hand. The Islamic Republic is willing to help Iraqi people reconstruct their country," he said. The Iranian UN envoy reiterated that peace and tranquility would return to the whole region and that constructive activities would once again flourish after Saddam Husayn was toppled.

He also described the interference of foreign countries especially the superpowers in the Persian Gulf as a "major cause of insecurity and crisis" in the region.

On the recently concluded summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Kuwait, Rajai'e Khorssani said that as the Islamic Republic had predicted the OIC summit proved to be a ceremonial meeting which failed to take any effective measure to solve problems plaguing the Muslim world. Rajai'e said that the OIC failed in its primary goal which was to to determine how best to use all Muslims' resources and manpower in resolving the issue of Palestine. The conference, he noted, caused more harm than good this year because some prominent conferees had said that they were proud to see Egypt, the ally of the Zionist regime of Israel, participate in the meeting. He also expressed regret that some Muslim countries which he said strongly believed the conference would fail had participated in the meeting solely in a bid to satisfy host country Kuwait.

The current operations launched by Iran's Muslim forces against Iraqi troops at the warfronts has served to crush the backbone of the Iraqi Army, and when the operations end Saddam Husayn would have no alternative but to leave the country, Khorassani said. The UN envoy stressed that the Islamic Republic will hold no peace talks with anybody unless Saddam Husayn is toppled because he said it was impossible to create peace in the region with the (Saddam) remaining in power. Any peace talks with Iraq would be held after Saddam Husayn was overthrown, he added.

In response to a question regarding the statements recently made by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kisinger that the U.S. should attack Iranian troop concentration sites near Iraqi border in retaliation for kidnapping of American hostages in Lebanon, Rajai'e Khorassani said that such statements which he described as 'irresponsible and threatening' should not be taken seriously.

ICO Summit 'Betrayals,' 'Mockeries' Viewed

LD311606 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2213 GMT 30 Jan 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The world of Islam has recently seen the greatest betrayals and mockeries being directed at its sacred aspirations. The Muslim nations in recent days have witnessed some repulsive and regrettable scenes at the meetings in Kuwait. These are distressing to Muslims — who are already familiar with sufferings and pain. The world of Islam in recent days has witnessed scenes which one wished would never have occurred. The world of Islam has recently seen the burial of Palestine's aspirations and the putting aside of enmity with Israel.

This is the treacherous mission which world arrogance has placed on the Kuwait sessions. The shaykh of Kuwait, with the help of reactionary Arab leaders, is trying to turn this great betrayal into a collective betrayal and tried to implement it in practice at the Kuwait conference. The Zionists are already in ecstacy and are cheerfully following all the news and reports of this inauspicious conference. They consider the Kuwait sessions and its treacherous contents to have been their greatest political victory and they have welcomed it wholeheartedly.

The Kuwait conference had been assigned the role of readmitting the Mubarak regime to the ICO without the slightest change in the treacherous policies pursued by the Cairo regime and while it still maintained its compromising links with Israel. And now the shaykh of Kuwait, with the help of the humiliating Arab reactionaries, has embraced Israel with open arms.

The shaykh of Kuwait, while hosting the Islamic conference in that country, formally congratulated Husni Mubarak on Egypt's return to the ICO and the reoccupation of its seat in the sessions. It would be well to ponder for a few moments the real meaning of these actions and reactions so as to clarify the specific meaning of the friendly Kuwaiti invitation to Mubarak's regime. [passage omitted]

The explicit meaning of these congratulations is that the Egyptian regime has been successful in its stubborn insistence on the Camp David accord, and that it has made the world of Islam regret the steps it took in expelling it from Arab circles; so for this very reason it deserves to be congratulated.

The correct meaning of these congratulations is that the Cairo regime has become victorious in its stubbornness against the demands of the Islamic nation and in its disregard for the inclinations and needs of Muslim nations that do not accept the humiliation of compromise with the Israeli occupiers, and that this victory needs to be praised. [passage omitted]

We now address those who are on the front line of the movement of struggle against Israel and are taking part at the highest level in the treacherous Kuwait sessions. It is not surprising to see the king of Jordan attending the Kuwait conference and to see this executioner of Black September being praised as the most popular Arab leader by the organizers of the conference, since he is of the same ilk as the conference organizers. If Mubarak does the same, and the organizers of the Kuwait conference greet him warmly and praise him for trampling Palestine's aspirations and walking over the blood of thousands of Egyptian martyrs, it is not surprising since he is totally of the same ilk as the disgraceful organizers of the Kuwait conference. [passage omitted].

The question, however, is why Hafiz al-Asad, as the head of an active state in the forefront of struggle against Israel, has attended the Kuwait conference and, by this unjustified act, has thus given legitimacy to the overt treason committed by Arab reactionaries in bringing Israel's allies back to the Muslim fold. One would never have expected a country at the forefront of the struggle against Israel to send its leaders to a meeting regarded by Israel as its greatest political victory. One ought to ask: What sort of affinity exists between Syria and the Egyptian regime to justify the participation of Syrian leaders in the ceremonies held on the occasion of the return of Israel's allies to the Islamic conference?

In the days before the Kuwait conference Syria adopted clear and firm stances that exposed the compromising policy of Arab reactionaries and declared that Hafiz al-Asad on no account would attend the Kuwait conference. Explaining this decisive

stand and the logical decision made by the Syrian president, Syria declared that Al-Asad would not participate in ceremonies held to grant official recognition to the betrayal of Camp David by reactionary regimes.

Taking into consideration the presence of Husni Mubarak in this conference and the sincere welcome extended to him by the shaykh of Kuwait, the question arises: How can the presence of Al-Asad in this conference be explained, and does this not formalize the reconciliation between Egypt and Israel and the crushing of Palestine's aspirations?

One cannot expect anything from King Husayn and Mubarak and reactionary regimes of the same ilk since they all spring from the same stock, and it would have been surprising if they had not participated in the Kuwait conference; but one would never have expected the president of Syria to participate in a conference which would place him unwittingly in the company of the executioner of Black September and Israel's allies.

The Kuwait conference was assigned the role of putting aside enmity with Israel, otherwise there was no reason for Israel to express its approval or for it to have said that it was the greatest political victory for Israel to see that Mubarak, while maintaining his commitment to the Zionists, also participated in the conference. [passage omitted]

We now address the officials in charge of our country's foreign policy and the decision-makers in this area. Kuwait, and the despised court of the Al-Sabah family, have entered the scene with greater obstinacy so as to crush the aspirations of the Islamic nation, to wound the feelings of Muslim nations, and to disregard the most fundamental principle of Islam. They have not stopped at anything and have not shown the slightest fear at the angry reactions of Muslim peoples in the four corners of the world of Islam. [passage omitted]

The point is that there have been enough warnings. The Government of the Islamic Republic must demonstrate serious reactions commensurate with the scale of the tragedy in light of these horrendous and regrettable scenes. By its latest act Kuwait has proved that it is hostile to Islam and it persists in its hostility. By its actions Kuwait has proved that it is hostile to the Islamic nation and it persists in its hostility. By its shameless act Kuwait has thumbed its nose at the Muslim nations and has proved that it is doing it deliberately. What can a nation do with its enemy? Despite being fully aware of the answer to this question, the Kuwaiti shaykh has taken his own path.

Islamic Thought Conference Issues Statement

NC010738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 1 Feb 87

[Text] The Fifth Conference on Islamic Thought concluded last night. In the 10-point declaration read out at the end of the conference, all acts of aggression by the oppressive forces of the East and West against the rights of the world's oppressed were condemned and all individuals who demand reform were asked to join ranks to strive for the rights of nations subject to tyranny. The participants in the Fifth Conference on Islamic Thought condemned all rigged meetings and conferences, and criticized decisions made in compliance with the plans of the world's oppressors to justify the historical atrocities committed by obsequious leaders, including the Camp David accords, declaring that all such decisions are bereft of legal or religious legitimacy.

The declaration vehemently condemned the brutal war that the Iraqi regime has imposed on the Islamic nation and on Iran on behalf of the world's oppressors, including the cowardly bombing of residential areas; the killing of civilians in Iran's urban and rural areas; the destruction of and damage done to mosques, schools, hospitals, and archeological sites; and the Iraqi regime's use of chemical weapons, in contravention of all accepted international rules. It was also stressed that the participants in this conference would stand beside the Muslim state of Iran until its legitimate and just aspirations are achieved and the source of sedition in the Islamic land of Iraq is completely destroyed. All of the world's peoples, particularly all Muslims, were asked to rise up and secure their legitimate political and social rights, including the freedom to act in accordance with Islamic values and tenets and to combat despotism, tyranny, aggression, and dependence. The conference also declared its complete support for the Islamic Revolution and for its leaders.

Combat Operations, Karbala' 5, 6 Continue

Hastily Deployed Iraqi Units Smashed

LD310940 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0924 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A number of Iraqi POW's captured by Islamic forces last night said that a number of their battalions were deployed with the utmost haste from other regions, including the city of Mandali, but because of their lack of knowledge of this region [not further specified] they were all smashed, suffering heavy casualties. They said that units of the 2d Brigade of the Iraqi Presidential Guards, regrouped for the umpteenth time, have also been almost completely destroyed.

Iraqi 107th Brigade Destroyed

LD310956 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0928 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] According to a report just received from the Karbala'-5 operational zone, the mighty, valiant forces of the army of monotheism, relying on the inexhaustible power of God and on the blessed prayers of our steadfast and selfless imam, are continuing their victorious battle against the Zionist enemy. In fierce fighting against the helpless enemy last night they succeeded in completely destroying the remnants of the 107th Brigade and two battalions of the Iraqi 7th Guards Brigade that was regrouped and assigned to the operational zone.

In the operations carried out by the Islamic forces last night the confusion and lack of leadership of the Iraqi forces, some of

whom had been sent to the scene without knowledge of the area and following the destruction of a vast section of the enemy forces, were most conspicuous. The enemy forces were destroyed before being able to do anything, thanks to the bravery and courage of the army of monotheism.

Succor from God and victory is nigh!

Iraqis Bomb Orumiyeh, Miandoab

LD311059 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, aircraft of the Iraqi Zionist regime today bombed residential areas of the cities of Orumiyeh and Miandoab, as a consequence of which a number of our compatriots were martyred or injured.

The resistant city of Baneh today was also subjected to heavy artillery attacks by the Iraqi regime which resulted in several houses being ruined.

Iraqi Aircraft Bomb Six Towns

LD311657 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that this afternoon Iraqi aircraft bombed the populated areas of the towns of Pol-e Dokhtar, Kuhdasht, Borujerd, Nahavand, Qorveh, and Mianeh.

'Scores' of Casualties Result

LD311757 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 31. IRNA — Scores of civilians were martyred and injured when Iraqi warplanes bombed residential areas of Nahavand (Hamadan Province), Borujerd (Lorestan Province), Kuhdasht (Lorestan Province), Qorveh (Kordestan Province), Orumiyeh, Minandoab (West Azarbayjan Province) and Mianeh (East Azarbayjan Province) on Saturday.

Some houses and shops and parked cars were destroyed or damaged.

'Footholds' Gained for Advance

LD311820 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Text] Having consolidated their positions today in order to prepare the ground for their next move toward east of Basra, the Islamic combatants rebuilt their positions along the fish culture canal and then chose stronger points. Explaining today's move by the Islamic combatants, a military commander told our correspondent:

During the 20 days since the commencement of the Karbala'-5 operations the best opportunity has been made available to the Islamic combatants, both from the viewpoint of smashing Iraqi war machinery and the strengthening of our defensive positions along the southern war axis, so much so that the Islamic combatants, having (?engaged) the enemy along the northern axis of the front and on the bank of Fish Lake, located in the northernmost point of the battlefield, managed to accentuate [as heard] the enemy forces there, while dealing him heavy blows. On the other hand, the annihilation of the enemy forces in this region has paved the way for our advancing and fortifying our positions in the southernmost points of the battlefield, namely, Bawarin Island and west of Jasim River.

Moreover, the Islamic combatants, during some opportune moments, managed to create positions and strong bunkers in suitable points along Fish Lake for their subsequent move and advancing. Right now, making use of their new positions and enjoying perfect command over fish canal and its relevant bridges, the Islamic combatants have gained suitable footholds for their subsequent advancing. They have turned their defensive positions into strong and unpenetrable points. He then added: During last night and today, more than 50 tanks and personnel carriers of the enemy have been destroyed and more than 3,200 of his troops killed.

Iraqis Abort Landing, Suffer Losses

LD311935 Tehran IRNA in English 1921 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Jan 31, IRNA — Several Iraqi gunboats attempting to land troops near Al-Bakr platform came under heavy artillery fire of the Muslim combatants at day-break Saturday. The enemy boats sustained some losses in the aborted amphibious landing.

Meanwhile, artillery fire of Iranian forces halted Iraqi engineering activities and movement of enemy vehicles in Val-Fajr-8 Operational Region (Al-Faw) on the same day.

At least four engineering vehicles, three group bunkers, and a gun emplacement of the enemy troops were set afire and destroyed in the shelling.

7th Missile Hits Baghdad

LD312040 Tehran IRNA in English 2037 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 31, IRNA — Iran's Islamic combatants fired a surface-to-surface missile at the heart of the Iraqi capital, Baghdad at 21:00 hours (17:00 GMT) Saturday, "starting a new stage in their deterrent and retaliatory measures."

The War Information Headquarters in a statement issued Saturday warned the Baghdad government that "Iran's Islamic combatants, despite their unwillingness, are determined to respond to enemy attacks on civilian areas in Iran, with all their might."

The statement also warned that "from tonight, the Baghdad rulers should wait for the Islamic Army's fatal and crushing blows." It also stressed that the responsibility of the consequences of Iran's deterrent acts will solely rest upon the Iraqi regime.

This was the seventh Iranian surface-to-surface missile to hit Baghdad since Iran launched its victorious Karbala'-5 and Karbala'-6 operations in the southern and western war fronts earlier this month.

The response of the desperate rulers in Baghdad to Iran's war victories was cowardly military attacks on civilian areas in the Islamic Republic which have taken hundreds of lives among whom [were] many innocent children and women.

The WIH statement said the mounting enemy attacks on civilians over the past days which martyred and wounded more Iranians, have compelled the Islamic forces to intensify their retaliatory attacks.The statement further requested the Iraqi people, particularly those in Baghdad, to evacuate their cities and towns and take refuge in the four holy cities which Iran has announced [it] will not attack.

"What the Islamic combatants have done so far, was only a warning," the WIH statement stressed, "but as of tonight, the Baghdad rulers should await the Islamic Army's deadly crushing blows."

Blows Dealt in Dual Canal Area
LD310927 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0908 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] The Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters reports that last night our heroic and mighty combatants of the monotheistic army in a heavy and intense battle with the forces of the Zionist regime ruling Baghdad succeeded in inflicting appreciable blows and casualties on them. During these operations in the area of the Dual Canal the Islamic combatants smashed the enemy, who was planning to penetrate the positions of the Islamic forces before he was able to do anything. They also destroyed some units of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime's forces, killing or wounding large numbers of them.

Iraq Hits Esfahan Residential Areas
LD010748 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT 1 Feb 87

[Text] Esfahan, Feb 1, IRNA — Residential areas in the central city of Esfahan were bombed in two separate Iraqi air raids, Saturday. Scores of civilians were martyred and wounded in these air attacks. A number of houses, two hospitals, and a cultural center were destroyed and several homes damaged. The bombardments took place at 15:03 and 20:04 hours GMT.

"Muslim combatants, fight until you become victorious," said an eight-year-old Esfahani girl, injured in the Saturday Iraqi bombardment of the city. The girl, Naffiseh Rasoul-Panah was out shopping with her mother, who was martyred in the raid. "Since the enemy is unable to fight with Muslim forces of Iran in battle fronts, it resorts to the bombardment of the cities. But, it makes no difference for us since we are fighting for the sake of God and we are victorious," Naffiseh added.

Missile Hits Baghdad Military Center
LD010751 Tehran IRNA in English 0738 GMT 1 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 1, IRNA — The missile unit of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) fired a surface-to-surface missile at a strategic military center in Baghdad, Saturday night.

In a statement Sunday, the IRGC Headquarters said that the missile attack was in retaliation for continuous acts of mischief by the Baghdad regime in attacking Iranian residential areas. The missile was fired at 20:50 hours local time (17:20 GMT).

The statement stressed that Muslim forces of Iran will decisively keep up their deterrent measures as long as the Iraqi enemy is unable to confront Muslim combatants in the battlefields.

Iraq's Al-'Amadiyah 'Pounded'
LD011029 Tehran IRNA in English 1024 GMT 1 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 1, IRNA — Military and industrial establishments in the northern Iraqi city of Al-'Amadiyah, Dahuk Province, were pounded by fighters of the Iranian Air Force, Sunday morning said a statement of the Joint Staff headquarters. The strike carried out in retaliation for Iraqi attacks on Iranian residential areas caused heavy damage and losses.

The Iranian fighters returned safetly to bases after pounding the installations, added the statement.

Iraq's Umm Qasr Port Shelled
LD011241 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Feb 87

[Text] According to a Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters report, in retaliation for the evil acts of the regime ruling Iraq, which has been bombing the cities of our country, military and economic installations of Umm Qasr port in Iraq have again been shelled since this morning by the coastal gunfire of the naval forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. The shelling is still continuing.

Further on Iraqi Air Attacks
LD011239 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Feb 87

[Text] According to Central News Unit correspondents, aircraft of the Iraqi Zionist regime at noon today bombed residential areas of Maragheh; yesterday afternoon, various parts of Nahavand, Qorveh, and the Kurdish village of Ziveh were bombed. A number of our compatriots were martyred and injured while a number of housing and commercial units were damaged. According to another Central News Unit report from Sanandaj, residential quarters of the resisting town of Marivan were also shelled by heavy long-range artillery fire of the Iraqi Zionist regime for 10 minutes. This caused the destruction of a number of residential units of the town.

Iraqi-Saudi Oil Complex Shelled
LD011713 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Feb 87

[Text] In retaliation for the savage attacks by the aircraft of the Zionist regime of Iraq on our country's cities and residential areas, artillery units of the forces of Islam shelled the Iraqi-Saudi oil pumping installations in [name indistinct] in the 'Ali al-Gharbi region, and the military-economic installations in 'Ali al-Gharbi, Al-'Amarah, and Basra, yesterday, inflicting heavy losses and casualties.

Forces 'Ready To Advance Further'
LD011918 Tehran IRNA in English 1858 GMT 1 Feb 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Feb 1, IRNA — Iran's Muslim forces maintain their foothold beside the fish canal in the Karbala'-5 operational theater and have a firm grip on the canal, said a military commander here Sunday.

The commander said that the Muslim forces of Iran are firmly positioned in military outposts of Kutsovari and Bubiyan [names as received] around the fish canal vigilantly maintaining their grip on the bridges over the canal.

On Iraqi propaganda claiming new victories over Iranian forces, the commander said that in a bid to boost the morale of its badly beaten troops in the region Baghdad has quoted an unidentified Iraqi Armed Forces chief of staff as claiming that the Ba'thist forces had attained victories over Iranian combatants.

He said that the Iraqi regime has not even identified its Armed Forces chief of staff who had claimed such 'imaginery victories" over Iranian troops in order to avoid consequences of the statements.

Iraq is militarily in such a hopeless postion now that it refers to the re-deployment in new and better fortified positions of Iranian Muslim combatants occasioned by circumstancial needs and changing weather as a victory for its own forces.

"Iran's Muslim combatants still have their firm grip on a 150-square km area liberated in the Karbala'-5 operations, he said, "We would only need to invite Iranian and foreign reporters to visit the liberated areas, Shalamcheh-Basra road, west of the Jasim River and the fish canal in order to judge on the Iraqi claim for themselves."

The commander said that destruction of the so-called especially-trained forces of Iraq in the death corridor erected by the Iranian forces in the war theater was so unpredictable by the Iraqis that its effects on the Iraqi Army would remain for a long time despite such false claims.

The Karbala'-5 operations have not ended yet but rather continue even more powerfully than ever before in order to pave the way for Iranian advance east of Basra, he said and added that the Iranian forces are now "on the spring board" for their next move. He said Iranian forces now continue to hold ground on 150 square kms they have liberated on the Shalamcheh-Basra road and west of the Jasim River and are ready to advance further.

The military commander added although the Iraqi officials have claimed that the areas liberated by Iranian forces are logistically unimportant, in point of fact, however, the said areas are important militarily. He said there are other important areas which would soon be liberated by Iran's Muslim combatants.

The commander scoffed at Iraqi claim of maintaining its control over the border area saying that the "unidentified Iraqi chief of staff is just having hallucinations."

Shiraz Residential Areas Bombed
NC020651 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 Feb 87

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, intruding Iraqi aircraft attacked two residential areas of Shiraz last night, damaging residential units and stores in this city. Some of our compatriots were wounded.

Iraq's Al-'Amarah 'Pounded' 2 Feb
LD020814 Tehran IRNA in English 0808 GMT 2 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 2, IRNA — Iranian fighter bombers heavily pounded military and economic centers of the Iraqi city of Al-'Amarah, Maysan Province, Monday morning, said a Joint Staff headquarters statement. In these raids, added the statement, carried out at 07:30 hours local time (04:00 hours GMT), heavy losses and damage were inflicted on the installations.

The Iranian planes returned safely to bases.

School Children Killed in Mianeh
LD020827 Tehran IRNA in English 0818 GMT 2 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 2, IRNA — Sixty eight school girls of an elementary and a secondary school in Mianeh, east Azarbayjan Province, were martyred in Sunday's Iraqi air attacks on the two schools. Another 150 students were injured in the attack. The Iraqi planes carried out their barbaric raid on the schools while the students were attending classes.

In a similar beastly move, the Iraqi war planes two weeks ago attacked a school in Borujerd massacring some 66 school children.

Iraqis Again Bomb Orumiyeh, Mianeh
LD021052 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Feb 87

[Text] Iraqi planes today again bombed Orumiyeh and Mianeh and killed a number of our compatriots.

Iraqi Plane Downed in Karbala' 6 Area
LD310935 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0919 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] The Islamic combatants' antiaircraft fire has downed another aggressor Iraqi aircraft west of the country. Thus, the number of aircraft of the Ba'thist regime downed since the beginning of the Karbala'-6 operations to date to the west of the country has reached 11.

Iraqi Fighter Downed; Pilot Held
LD021025 Tehran IRNA in English 1022 GMT 2 Feb 87

[Text] Karbala'-6 Operational Region, Feb 2, IRNA — An Iraqi F-1 Mirage fighter was downed by the heavy anti-aircraft fire of Muslim forces of Iran at 10:00 hours local time (06:30 GMT), Monday. Pilot of the downed plane, Captain Zuhair Muhammad Sa'id of Squadron 91 of Kut Air base, was captured.

This brings to 12 the number of Iraqi planes downed in this operational region since the beginning of the operations, Jan 13.

'Infiltration Offensive' Launched
LD310934 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0913 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] According to a report received from the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters — God's peace and benedictions be upon the seal of the prophets [khatem ol-anbiya'] — the mighty combatants of Islam, in an infiltration offensive in the Karbala'-6 operational theater last night aimed at destroying enemy forces in that region, engaged in fierce fighting and destroyed an enemy battalion of the 4th Brigade of the 22d Division. May your bravery endure!

Khatem ol-Anbiya' Communique No 24
LD311203 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 31 Jan 87

[Communique No 24 of the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint operational center of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, issued 31 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. There is neither strength nor might except in God, the high, the almighty!

God is great. Congratulations on your relentless battle, O God-seeking warriors, who by seeking boundless divine help and the good blessings of the resistant and self-sacrificing Islamic nation have attacked the cowardly adversary and are recording all the time immortal victory and glory in the epic annals of the Islamic revolution.

O combatant Islamic nation and O resistant people, selfless combatants of the monotheistic army against blasphemy in an extremely heavy and intense battle last night with the forces of the Baghdad Zionist regime's forces, who were planning to infiltrate the positions of the Islamic forces west of Fish Lake, succeeded in inflicting heavy blows and casualties on them.

During this heavy battle the Islamic forces launched a successful and deadly attack on the forces of the Zionist regime that were deployed to the region as human waves in panic and without proper military planning as a result of pressure from the Iraqi commanders. They succeeded in completely destroying the remnants of the 107th Brigade and two battalions of the 7th Brigade of the Presidential Guards, and they destroyed 50 percent of the 8th and 11th Brigades of the Presidential Guards which had been regrouped.

In addition, another three enemy brigades were also destroyed by 50 percent following a heroic assault launched by the Islamic forces.

During the engagements last night and today, which are another indication of the courage and epic creations of the Islamic army combatants against blasphemy, more than 3,300 enemy troops were killed or wounded. Thus the total number of enemy casualties since the beginning of the Karbala'-5 operations has reached 50,000.

Moreover, a number of the Zionist enemy troops captured by our forces are now being evacuated behind the front.

During last night's operations the Islamic forces opened massive, accurate artillery fire in an unprecedented manner, inflicting such heavy casualties and losses on the men, materiel, and equipment of the Zionist enemy that more than 50 tanks and personnel carriers were destroyed, thus causing increasing fear and terror among the Zionist enemy's forces.

The Islamic combatants' blanket fire hit and downed three aircraft of the Zionist enemy in the Karbala'-5 operational theater. One of the pilots was killed, but we have no information as to the fate of the other two pilots. With the downing of these three aircraft the total number of Iraqi aircraft downed in the Karbala'-5 theater has reached 74.

In the Karbala'-6 operational theater Islam's mighty combatants in an attack penetrating the Zionist enemy's positions succeeded in utterly destroying one battalion of the 4th Brigade of the 22 Iraqi Army Division and in killing or wounding large numbers of their troops.

The Islamic forces' fire downed an aircraft of the Zionist enemy over the region. Thus, the total number of Iraqi aircraft downed over the western operational theater has reached 11.

[Signed] The Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters

No 25

LD011126 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Jan 87

[Communique No 25 of the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, issued on 1 February]

[Text] In the Karbala'-5 operational region, the mighty combatants of Islam last night and this morning attacked the shaky forces of the Ba'thist-Zionist regime in Iraq and gained fresh victories after carrying out three limited operations along the middle axis in the direction of the Shalamcheh-Basra road, along the northern axis west of the marshland along the banks of Fish Lake, and also along the southern axis north of Salahiyah Island west of the Jasim River.

Along the middle axis, following several hours of heavy fighting, the combatants of Islam advanced and captured new positions including the command headquarters of the 11th Iraqi Artillery Division which had been turned into a fortress by the earthworks and concrete trenches built around it. In the course of this fierce engagement, leading to the destruction of over 12 tanks and armored personnel carriers and to the death or injuring of over 1,200 enemy personnel, the Islamic combatants captured and mopped up the area — which contained many installations, including communications equipment and many documents and records — and have now begun to consolidate their new positions.

Along the two other axes the brave Islamic combatants dealt heavy blows against the Zionist-Ba'thist forces which were attempting to launch a futile attack against the Islamic forces. During the first few hours the enemy dispersed leaving many dead and injured, and was totally routed, retreating in total fear.

In the area west of Fish Lake, in the marshland zone, 800 enemy forces were killed or injured, and another 700 casualties were sustained west of Jasim River. Over 18 enemy tanks and armored personnel carriers were set ablaze.

This morning, the brave and vigilant AAA fighters of the Islamic army succeeded in downing and enemy helicopter gunship which was attempting approach positions of the Islamic forces.

[Signed] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the joint operational center of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Joint Staff Communique 2,732

LD301616 Tehran IRNA in English 1558 GMT 30 Jan 87

[Text] Tehran, Jan 30, IRNA — Scores of civilians were martyred and wounded in Iraqi bombing of residential areas of Khorramabad, Borujerd, Arak, Dezful, Bakhtaran, and Ilam Friday afternoon, said a military communique here Friday.

The 2,732nd communique of the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed military and industrial centers of the Iraqi city of Sulaymaniyah Friday morning inflicting substantial casualties and losses on Iraqi troops.

The fighters returned safely to bases after the bombing mission which took place at 08:15 hours (04:45 GMT).

Military and economic targets in the northern and eastern Iraqi border cities were heavily shelled by Iranian long-range artillery fire on Thursday. Heavy damage was inflicted on eco-military targets in Iraqi cities of Chuwartah, Halabjah, Khurmal, and Sulaymaniyah.

In the southern fronts, Iranian artillery fire inflicted heavy casualties and losses on Iraqi forces and halted enemy engineering operations especially in Sharhani, Bejliyeh, and Zobeydeh on Thursday.

Parts of Iraqi positions were set ablaze and several enemy tanks destroyed in Sharhani, Pich-e Angizeh, Talayeh, Kushk, southern fronts, by artillery fire of Iran's Muslim combatants on Thursday.

In the western fronts, exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued sporadically on Thursday raging more heavily in Sumar operational theater. Muslim forces of Iran maintained their fire-power superiority over Iraqi troops.

Iraqi forces attempting to fortify their positions in Sayyid Sadiq and Panjwin, northwestern fronts suffered losses and their operations halted as they were subjected to heavy Iranian artillery fire on Thursday. Convoys of enemy patrols were also forced to flee by Iranian artillery fire.

In the northwestern fronts, heavy artillery duels between Iranian Muslim forces and Iraqi troops were reported in Pirashahr, Marivan, Hajj 'Umran, and particularly Sar Dasht on Thursday as a result of which the latter sustained an undetermined number of casualties and losses.

Movement of a heavy Iraqi motorized column was checked in Naft-e Shahr, western fronts, on Thursday, the communique concluded.